

## Technology Tool Scenario Sheet

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Name of Tool, URL (if Web-based), Cost & Description	How Can the Tool be Used in Education?	Content Area/s in Which Tool Would Be Useful	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Name: KidBlog</p> <p>URL: <a href="http://kidblog.org/home.php">http://kidblog.org/home.php</a></p> <p>Cost: Free</p> <p>Description: Kidblog.org is designed for elementary and middle school teachers who want to provide each student with their own, unique blog.</p> <p>Kidblog's simple, yet powerful tools allow students to publish posts and participate in discussions within a secure classroom blogging community. Teachers maintain complete control over student blogs.</p>	<p>This Web 2.0 tool can be used by classroom teachers to create collaborative online spaces that are specifically designed for their students, per grade level and/or per class. The teacher creates an account and then defines the various blogging areas. Students are invited to participate in the discussions and can only access the pages that the teacher has set up for them.</p> <p>This brings publishing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by providing a venue for students to communicate, collaborate and share.</p> <p>Teachers should create blogging guidelines and rubrics for their students to follow, and this is an ideal way to teach appropriate social networking skills to students in a safe and structured environment.</p>	<p>This tool can benefit all subject areas and with a little creativity on the teacher's part can bring meaningful discussions to the classroom. Lesson examples include:</p> <p>Language Arts – Book discussions rather than book reports</p> <p>Math – Solving problems and challenging others by posing new problems.</p> <p>Science – Discussion of discoveries – through role playing – students assume various roles and present points of view based on those roles.</p> <p>Social Studies – Historical blogs – and how the historical characters may have interacted with each other.</p> <p>Art – Presenting and sharing art projects and soliciting constructive feedback.</p> <p>Music – reviews of past and current musical trends.</p> <p>Health and Fitness – Offering topics of interest and discussions of current health and wellness topics.</p> <p>ELL – Helps to include English Language Learners as part of an online community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not blocked through CEN filter</li> <li>• Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts.</li> <li>• Your students' blogs are private by default - viewable only by classmates and the teacher.</li> <li>• For "semi-public" blogs, set up guest (e.g. parent) accounts that require a password to view students' posts/comments.</li> <li>• Comment privacy settings block unsolicited comments from outside sources.</li> <li>• Kidblog does not collect any personal information from teachers or students.</li> <li>• No advertising of any kind.</li> <li>• Simple login menus allow students to select their name from a list of students in the class, eliminating the need to memorize usernames.</li> <li>• Clutter-free design means your students will spend less time fussing with widgets/options and more time publishing.</li> <li>• Central blog directory and simple navigation links make it easy for students to find classmates' blogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have internet access</li> <li>• Teachers must create the basic structure and must understand the concepts of blogging.</li> <li>• Dependency on site's stability – both technical and organizational</li> <li>• Content is outside of district</li> <li>• Students can compromise security by sharing their login and password.</li> <li>• Teachers must continually monitor classes and allow comments to be published</li> <li>• Lesson development for certain blogging topics can be time-consuming</li> <li>• Providing a strong scaffold so that students can work responsibly.</li> </ul>

**Blogging Rubrics:**

<http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/file/view/blogging+rubric.pdf>

<http://www2.uwstout.edu/content/profdev/rubrics/blogrubric.html>

[http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec296/assignments/blog\\_rubric.html](http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec296/assignments/blog_rubric.html)

<https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0ASE-WviNjA7KZGZzczRweF8yOWZjenR4c2Z3&hl=en>

[http://www.charlesyoungs.com/images/Blogging--Rubric\\_to\\_a\\_Blog\\_Post.pdf](http://www.charlesyoungs.com/images/Blogging--Rubric_to_a_Blog_Post.pdf)

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/teachers\\_guide/SNOnline.BlogRubric3-5.pdf](http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/teachers_guide/SNOnline.BlogRubric3-5.pdf)

**BLOGGING RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/teachers\\_guide/SNOnline.BloggingRules.pdf](http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/teachers_guide/SNOnline.BloggingRules.pdf)

<http://theedublogger.com/2010/01/11/week-2-set-up-your-blogging-rules-and-guidelines/>

<http://kidslearntoblog.com/ten-guidelines-to-improve-student-blogging/>